

## *The Joy of Giving.*

**Okay. So we have to talk about this. Christian Stewardship is what we do with what we have, as followers of Jesus. Just how is this joyful?**

Consider the RV – yes, the Recreational Vehicle.

- It lets you get away - **JOY!**
- It keeps you warm and comfy even when it is wet and miserable outside - **JOY!**
- It's a spare suite for visiting friends and family - **JOY!**
- It's the perfect escape for uninterrupted work on your laptop, or for a quiet read - **JOY!**

Consider the payments – on the purchase, on the maintenance, on the fuel – **JOY!?!**

*Sometimes it doesn't feel like joy; but*

**Consider Repossession by the bank!! Oh noooo....!**

***So there is joy in spending that money...***

Okay, so you don't actually have an RV.

But Consider This:

*We have a much better Re-Creation Vehicle, called the Church of Jesus Christ, the Family of God, the Blessed Company of All Faithful People. We know a joy in our membership in Christ that makes everything else in our lives seem dull.*



**So there is joy, real joy, in keeping, maintaining and fueling the Church of Jesus Christ.**

DID YOU KNOW:

- Generosity is a Christian virtue
- Giving reflects the gifts that God has given us
- Acts of giving stimulate endorphins in the brain and make us feel better
- We are interconnected with all of life, and giving deepens our connection. It's a lonely person who has nothing to give; it's an even lonelier person who has something to give and keeps it to themselves.
- Paul says, "God loves a cheerful giver" – and he used the word for *hilarious!*
- The church is about ministry: as Luke records, "beginning in Jerusalem" (right here in the parish) "and into Judea" (our immediate community) "and to the ends of the earth" (our mission to the world.) *The mission of Jesus was in that order. It wasn't a mistake!*

DID YOU KNOW in 2017 the people of this parish gave

- \$ 215,789 to keep, maintain, and fuel the parish
- And \$ 25,567 to the community on our peninsula
- And \$ 64,819 to missions in the wider church.

*That's a lot of joy!*

*Are you getting your share?*

*Next week: the Baptismal Covenant (Seriously?)*